

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 131200Z JUN 74 ZFF 6

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8332

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1380

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJ: TENNECO SIX

REF: KHARTOUM 1377

1. KHALIFA TOLD EMBOFF 1230 HOURS LOCAL JUNE 13 THAT ZEIN TRANSMITTED A MESSAGE TO THE EFFECT THAT MRS. DORTZBACH SHOULD BE RELEASED WITHIN 2 DAYS. ZEIN ALSO CONVEYED WORD THAT THE PILOT AND OTHER TENNECO CAPTIVES ARE IN A REMOTE AREA AND IL WOULD TAKE "TWO WEEKS" TO IMPLEMENT THE RELEASE OF THE PILOT. ZEIN SAID THAT THE NURSE WOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE NEAREST POLICE OR ARMY POST.

2. ZEIN ALSO INQUIRED RE PROSPECTS OF RELEASING THE 5 ELF CAPTIVES. KHALIFA WILL SEND HIS OWN MESSENGER TO KASSALA (EXPECTS HIS ARRIVAL EVENING JUNE 13) TO TELL ZEIN THAT IT HAD BEEN MADE VERY CLEAR THAT HIS PEOPLE MUST FIRST RELEASE TWO CAPTIVES AS PROMISED. KHALIFA'S MESSAGE WILL POINT OUT DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN PRESENT ZEIN MESSAGE ABOUT TIMETABLE OF RELEASE AND ORIGINAL PROMISE TO RELEASE TWO CAPTIVES WITHIN SEVERAL DAYS.

3. KHALIFA WILL ALSO ASK FOR DETAILED EXPLANATION AS TO WHY ZEIN IS ASKING ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE RELEASE OF 5 ELF
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CAPTIVES WHEN IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT THIS WOULD BE ADDRESSED

ONLY AFTER THE PROMISED RELEASE OF THE TWO CAPTIVES.

4. KHALIFA SPECULATED TO EMBOFF THAT DELAYS ON ELF PART MAY BE RELATED TO A LARGE ELF/GC SUMMIT CONFERENCE WHICH IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE IN ERITREA WHICH WILL INCLUDE SOME OF THE IMPORTANT ELF LEADERS FROM BROAD.

5. KHALIFA WAS ASKED BY EMBOFF WHAT HE THOUGHT SHOULD BE DONE GIVEN THE PRESENT STATE OF CONFUSION (REFTEL). KHALIFA SUGGESTED WE WAIT FOR ZEIN'S ANSWER TO KHALIFA'S QUERIES. KHALIFA EXPECTS AN ANSWER FROM EIN BY SATURDAY JUNE 15.

6. COMMENT: APPEARS ELF/GC MAY BE FISHING FOR FIRM COMMITMENT FIVE ELF PRISONERS WILL BE FREED BEFORE RELEASING ANY HOSTAGES. IF SO, IT WOULD APPEAR HELPFUL IF SOME SUCH UNDERTAKING COULD BE PROVIDED, WITH IMPLEMENTATION CLEARLY CONTINGENT ON PRIOR ELF PERFORMANCE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF IEG WERE PREPARED GIVE PRIVATE ASSURANCE FIVE ELF WILL BE RELEASED ONCE FIVE TENNECO HOSTAGES FREED, THIS MIGHT PUT ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ELF REACH DECISION.
BREWER

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